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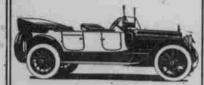
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#### A DESECRATION OF THE DAY

HE commemoration of the birth of Abraham Lincoln has become one of the most sacred of American traditions. The citizens of the republic set aside their cares and prejudices for the day, and pause in sober contemplation of the principles which this matchless American promulgated. And so it is that the occasion makes the strongest possible appeal to the finer attributes of American citizenship, and calls for a renewal of allegiance wherever it is observed. This is the established custom, but an inglorious exception is to be noted.

We are told that the gathering of Progressives in this city last Monday was in honor of the immortal Lincoln. Such pretensions challenge the intelligence of high-minded citizens, for the whole affair was a shame and an outrage. To subvert the sacred significance of the day, and make of it an occasion for venting personal animus and political exploitation, was but to dishonor the memory they claimed to cherish, and to disgrace the entire community. And the sorriest feature of all was that some of our most esteemed citizens so far forgot themselves, as to stoop from their high positions and participate in the sham.

The affair was unpardonable. It is inconceivable how any group of men and women could so far trespass upon the proprieties of the occasion, even though their very souls were void of every patriotic impulse. They were assembled for the professed purpose of glorifying the greatest of all Americans, and of emulating the example he set for all mankind to follow; and yet they stopped little short of actually profaning him whom they professed to worship.

Sometimes, it would seem that the spirit of an immortal soul returns to earth to grace occasions in its honor, and to commune for a short time with mortals who seek the eternal truths. As such, it is a source of constant inspiration and endless faith; but it never comes unbidden, nor does it linger where its presence fails to awaken a full response in mortal souls. If this be true, then what a sacrilege was performed last Monday.

If the spirit of the sad soul of Lincoln hovered over the affair which was supposed to be in his honor, how it must have brooded over the spectacle presented, as men and women for personal and political aggrancizement, openly prostituted the priceless heritage he left the world. And how could it reconcile the attitude of those who were assembled with his utterance of over half a century ago: "With malice towards none, with charity for all?"

It is unnecessary to recite how the events of the day developed into a political family quarrel and scandal; how members were read out of the party; how invited guests were openly insulted and indignantly took their departure; how animosities arose, and how the whole affair resolved itself into a mad scramble for political notoriety and exploitation. In view of these developments, it is to be regretted that someone present was not big enough to stand up and tell the story of the great-hearted American who was first to forgive the South for its error and who, in answer to the angry demands of the radical element of the North that he disfranchise the southerners, quietly replied: "I shall treat them as though they never went away."

#### THE FAMILY SKELETON

UDGING from the rather humiliating experience encountered by the Progressives last Monday, it would appear that "reading a man out of the party" has its disadvantages. We hold no brief for Representative Raleigh, but we do admire his frankness and his disposition to tell the truth. In fact, about the worst thing that can be said about him is that he got mixed up in bad company.

It may be that Mr. Raleigh broke the strict letter of the platform pledge when he voted against the prohibition bill. On the other hand, and irrespective of the merits of the prohibition question itself, it may also be the case that somebody was playing double. At least, to all appearances the prohibitionists have had a skeleton concealed in the family closet, and the gentleman from Salt Lake kicked it out in self defense.

When the resolution was submitted before the conference, purporting to read him out of the party, Mr. Raleigh had the following to say:

"You have the right to read me out of the party, but before you adopt the resolution \* \* \* I am going to tell you why I voted against the prohibition bill. In the first place your leaders came to me, to be plain, to round up the brewery and saloon vote. You made certain promises which you did not keep, but which I kept. I not only went to the saloons in Salt Lake, but went to Midvale, Sandy and Bingham, and did work for the Progressives.

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